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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of grace and goodness, thank You for giving us another day.

As we come on the heels of a long day considering Homeland Security appropriations, we ask Your blessing of strength and perseverance that each Member may best serve their constituents and our entire Nation.

May it be their purpose to see to the hopes of so many Americans that they authenticate the grandeur and glory of the ideals and principles of our democracy with the work they do.

Grant that the men and women of the people's House find the courage and wisdom to work together to forge solutions to the many needs of our Nation and ease the anxieties of so many.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. WALORSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT BILL

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, last night the House Armed Services Committee approved its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2014.

Included was a provision I sponsored, along with Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ, to extend whistleblower protections to victims of military sexual abuse. This bipartisan proposal will strengthen whistleblower protection laws and ensure that victims are protected from punishment for reporting sexual assault in the military.

The Pentagon recently reported that an estimated 26,000 servicemembers were sexually assaulted last year with just over 3,000 cases reported. This one statistic alone is chilling, and it's only the tip of the iceberg.

Our military represents the bravest men and women in the Nation, and growing reports of sexual assault and underreporting are sadly tarnishing the reputation of our Armed Forces. This bill gets to the root of the problem by creating a safe reporting environment and demanding accountability from our military leaders.

Passage of this bill will be a step in the right direction to help victims and restore trust in our military.

I am pleased this bipartisan provision is one step closer to becoming law.

### ENERGY SAVINGS PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government spends more than \$6.5 billion on energy costs every year to heat, cool, and power roughly 500,000 buildings and facilities.

Currently, the administration is auditing Federal agencies for cost savings and has found billions of dollars that are available in savings.

Here's how they work:

Energy savings performance contracts allow a public-private partnership where the Federal agency contracts with an energy service company to conduct energy audits and design and implement energy-saving improvements. There is no cost to the taxpayer. The payment to the contractor comes from savings that are reaped down the line.

It's a win-win-win for the taxpayer, the economy, and the environment. ESPCs lead to local, nonexportable jobs. In fact, every million dollars of ESPC contracting results in the creation of 10 local jobs. ESPCs have already proven themselves to drastically reduce carbon emissions and water usage at Federal facilities.

This is something we can and should do together: save money, create jobs, and improve the environment.

### MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULTS

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the United States military is the most capable and most professional fighting force in history. But while our military is adept at meeting external threats, it has had a more difficult time combating the epidemic of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in its ranks.

Earlier today, the Armed Services Committee passed this year's defense

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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